

LANTERN

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* INTRODUCTION

WELL, as you can see, it's finally happened! LANTERN has finally discarded the format that it has had for the past ten years. Welcome to the first "mini" issue which I hope you will enjoy as much as all the big 'uns which have gone before.

All involved in this 'new look' LANTERN, myself as editor, the committee of the B.S.I.G., and the producers are excited by the new horizons opened-up by this format. Be assured that it will be used to the best advantage to make the articles and presentation of LANTERN all the better.

However, it is your opinion as a reader that really matters, so please drop us a line and let us know YOUR reaction to the new format. As from this issue we intend introducing a regular "Reader's Letters" section; so let's be having them - good, bad or indifferent!

Having now decided to take the prov-

erbial plunge and changing LANTERN, we now, even more than ever need your support; especially in the way of subscribers. More subscribers mean more money in advance and a great ability and flexibility to plan ahead. PLEASE, if you are not a regular subscriber, take out a subscription; if you are a subscriber introduce LANTERN to a friend or send us their name and address and we'll send them a free copy - above all GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT!

In the meantime thanks for buying this copy of LANTERN, we hope that you enjoy it and many more to come....

Ivan Bunn



THE LOUND MOONRAKER

R. A. HAXELL

in the DAYS when England was ravaged by civil war; and more particularly when Ollie Cromwell had lain se-

to Kings Lynn in Norfolk and was getting ready to march on Norwich, a rumble of panic passed among the wealthy of that fair city. From church and private dwelling place they came forward with their golden trinkets, selling them to the goldsmiths for much handier cash. The Goldsmiths rose to the occasion and having melted-down as much gold as possible into convenient ingots they decided to flee the country; and thus made their way along the river Yare to Lowestoft. They stopped off at Herringfleet, Suffolk where they proceeded overland to the river Waveney. Only to learn, to their dismay, that roundheads had blocked-off the river at Oulton.

THIS meant a landward journey to Lowestoft and freedom. Their gold weighed them down and as they staggered into the village of Lound, only a few miles from Lowestoft, they were set upon by the villains of the piece - a gang of Roundheads. One of the goldsmiths got away and headed for Lound church and sanctuary. Coming to the village pond he pitched his gold into it thinking to retrieve it later. Alas! it was not to be, a Roundhead pike-thruster had wounded him grievously and he collapsed, dying on the roadside. The local parson happened by and learned of the gold from the dying man's lips.

NOW, as everyone knows, Lound is famous for the 'Village Maid' pub, and so it was then, except that the landlord of the day was having a lean time of it all. The locals were frightened to come to the pub because of the ghost which haunted the village pond opposite - the same pond in which the goldsmith had dumped his gold. As a result his beer had gone off and had been duly fed to the pigs, who charged around in drunken porcine revels screaming and gighting (a bit like humans really), and thus scaring off even more customers.

THE landlord had to brew more beer for which he needed water which came from the haunted pond opposite. His coppers were boiling away when he went to fetch more. The hour was midnight and, befuddled by the fumes from his brewing, he lurched forward. Then, under the full moon, was the fishing phantom; "Nice night for it" gurgled the landlord, but the ghost, who was in fact the surplice-clad parson, explained that dressed-up in this way so as to be unhindered by the villagers in catching a carp for his dinner.

TRADE still didn't pick-up for our friend; so he hit upon a plan. When the next full moon was imminent he made it known that at midnight a free entertainment would be had at the 'Village Maid', entailing watching the parson trying to rake the moon out of the pond. This brought them in by the droves, but all were puzzled by the apparent madness of the local religious leader. Had they seen the "carp" he eventually caught I doubt if they would have been!

SOURCE: East Anglian Folklore and Other Tales. Barrett and Garrod; 1976.

ESSEX CHURCH DEDICATIONS: Compiled by Jim Kimmis; pub. by Essex Landscape Mysteries.

This small booklet will be of great help to all those interested in Landscape mysteries and Leys. It consists of an index, as complete as possible, of Essex parish churches, their dedication and location. The index is prefaced with notes on their distribution, significance of the most popular dedications, and calendar of Saints' days appropriate to those dedications. Complete with a number of distribution maps, the booklet is indeed value for money at only 30p plus P & P.

Available from; 32 Onslow Crescent, Blackheath, Colchester, Essex. CO2 8UN.

Exchange Magazines

SKYWATCH: Informal journal of UFO discussion. Enquiries to D.Rees, 92 Hillcrest Road Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK2 5SE.

THE LEY HUNTER: UK's leading journal of earth mysteries. UK Sub.£3.60; Europe £4.50; Overseas Airmail \$12.50. From P.O.Box 13, Welshpool, Powys, Wales.

ZETETIC SCHOLAR: Independent scientific review of claims of anomalies and the paranormal. Published twice yearly, sub. \$11.50, From Dept., of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197, USA.

FORTEAN TIMES: Quarterly journal of notes, news, reviews and references on current & historical strange phenomena, related subjects & philosophies. Edited by RJM Rickard. annual sub £4.00/\$10.00. From HM-Fortean Times, London, WC1N 3XX.

LINCOLNSHIRE DRAGON: Quarterly magazine of earth mysteries, folklore, strange phenomena etc. Annual sub £2.00 (single copy 65p) from 16 Packhorse Lane, Swineshead, Boston, Lincs PE20 3JE.

EARTHLINK: Quarterly publication of U.F.O.s and related phenomena. Single copy 70p, annual sub £2.75(UK), £4.00(overseas). From; 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex.

MACONIA: Open-minded and alternative approach to UFO research and investigation. Annual UK sub £2.00; US \$5.00; elsewhere £2.50 or equivalent (4 issues). from John Rimmer, 64 Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. KT3 4JW.

SANGREAL: The quarterly journal of the mysteries of Britain; evokes the spirit of Merlin's Isle thru magic and legend, crafts and undying traditions. Single issue 75p post free. Annual sub., £2.75 (Overseas \$8.00 by surface mail). From BM Sangreal, London WC1V 6XX, England.

WOOD & WATER: a radical, ecopagan, anarchist-feminist magazine dedicated to sacred places and the ways of the Goddess & the God. Single copy 65p incl. P&P or £2.50 for 4 issues. From 142 Bedford hill, Balham, London SW 12.

ESSEX LANDSCAPE MYSTERIES: A quarterly magazine of antiquities, folklore & paraphenomena in the county of Essex. Single copy 50p, annual sub. £2.00, Edited by Jim Kimmis; from, 9 Ashwin Avenue, Copford, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1BS.

QUICKSILVER MESSENGER: Earth mysteries, folklore, strange phenomena etc in the S.E. of England. 4 Issue sub. UK £3.20; Europe £4.50; Elsewhere \$15.00. from Garden Flat, 46 Vere Road, Brighton, Sussex.

(More on page 11)

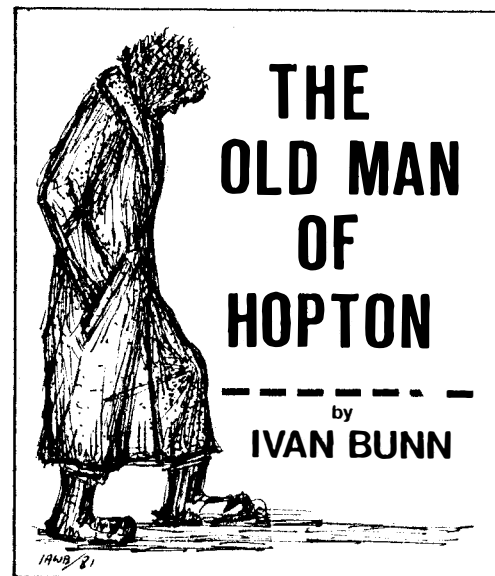
AS MENTIONED in Lantern No.32 (P.11/12), Mr. Frank Colby, a constable with 29 years service in the British Transport Police, claims to have had a remarkable experience whilst driving to Lowestoft on the southbound carriageway of the recently opened bypass on the A12 near the village of Hopton, 3 miles north of Lowestoft, Suffolk.

The incident happened at approximately 5.15pm on November 23, 1980. Mr. Colby and his wife were returning home after visiting relatives at Gorleston; as the car reached a point about midway along the bypass (marked 3 on map), Mr. Colby saw what at first he took to be an old man crossing the carriageway about 75 yards in front of him. He described the figure as being about 5'6" tall, stocky built and wearing a long shapeless overcoat. It's head was hunched into its shoulders and seemed to have very 'spiky' hair. What struck Mr. Colby as much as anything about the figure was its very large boots and the way it lifted them high off the ground as it slowly plodded across the road from left to right. Although the figure was beyond the range of his headlights, Mr. Colby said that it appeared to have a greyish, misty-white appearance. When this strange figure reached the centre of the carriageway Mr. Colby suddenly realised that he could see the broken line marking the centre of the carriageway continuing straight thru the figure.

By the time the witness had realised what was happening and had braked, the strange apparition had reached the central reservation and had disappeared. Mr. Colby stopped his car and inspected the place where he had last seen the figure; but there was nothing to be seen except the short grass of the verge and the northbound carriageway beyond. Thru all this his wife, who had been sitting in the passenger seat beside him, had seen nothing! After inspecting the area and before driving on, Mr. Colby made on the spot notes of what had happened together with a thumb-nail sketch of the figure.

The following morning he contacted the local press office at Lowestoft who in turn referred him to the writer who was able to get a full statement and a copy of Mr. Colby's on the spot notes, within 24 hours of the incident.

There can be little doubt that the witness is sincere and that what he describes truly reflects what he genuine-



ly believes he saw; and with a lack of evidence to the contrary, there is no reason to doubt that what Mr. Colby describes is more or less how it happened.

However, when studying the details of his encounter, two rather odd facts come to mind. Firstly, Mr. Colby noted that the figure was outside the range of his headlights, and yet not only could he see it quite distinctly, he could also see the white line on the road both in front and behind the figure. This perhaps indicates that the figure was emitting a diffused light of its own - which might possibly account for the figure's "greyish-white, misty appearance" which the witness noted.

Secondly, and even more intriguing, is a point which came to light when the witness was being interviewed the following day. As already noted, Mr. Colby estimated that the figure was approximately 75 yards in front of his car which was travelling at 50 mph. Now, it only takes a matter of seconds for a car travelling at that speed to cover the short distance involved (even allowing for the fact that the witness decelerated and braked as soon as he saw the figure) but, and nothing will change his mind, Mr. Colby is adamant that his car never got closer than 75 yards of the figure. This seems to indicate that not only was the figure plodding slowly across the road, but that it was also travelling sideways at approximately the same speed as the car - 50mph!

This proves nothing; but it does perhaps suggest that the 'apparition' was possibly some sort of optical illusion or trick of the light on the car windscreen which could have produced such an effect. The witness however is adamant that this was NOT the case, and that the apparition was definitely OUTSIDE the car and some 75 yards in front of the vehicle.

The story of Mr. Colby's encounter received press coverage both local and national in December 1980(2). The first account appeared in the local press on 24th December (to tie in with the 'traditional christmas ghost-story' theme); and as a direct result of this local press report the story appeared in a national paper a few days later(3). This press coverage, which also included details of the writer's own investigations at Hopton, brought in a few other stories which seemed to tie-in with Mr. Colby's experience.

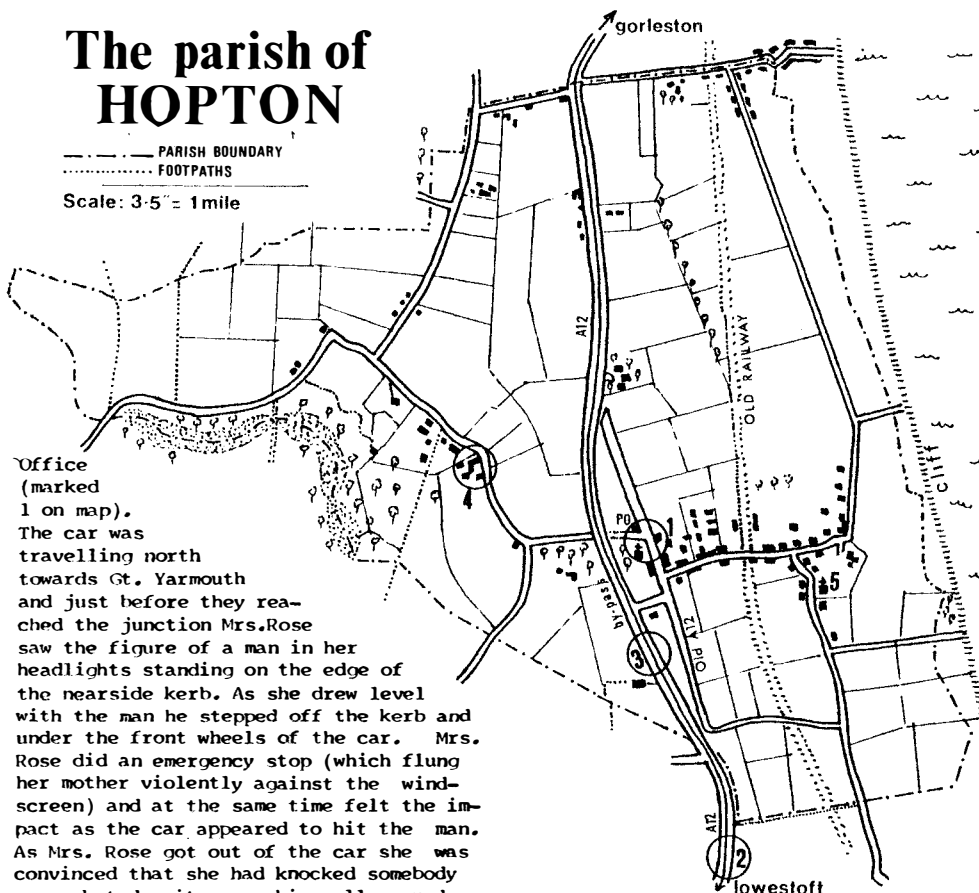
The earliest of these stories came from Mr. Roger Hammersley of Lowestoft, who said that during the early months of 1957 he and a friend - Mr. R. Gardner of Lowestoft - were driving in separate cars from Gt. Yarmouth to Lowestoft. It was between 10pm and midnight and they were on the A12 just to the south of Hopton (marked 3 on map), when both men saw what Mr. Hammersley described as the figure of a man wearing very large boots, a large fawn overcoat and a hat, crossing the road in front of them. According to Mr. Hammersley the figure was very tall and the witnesses drove up close to it. Suddenly they realised that it was no longer there. Mr. Hammersley emphasised this point - he did not actually see the figure disappear, but simply realised that it had gone. He also said that although there was nothing particularly strange about the figure, he got the feeling that for some reason or the other it was "odd".

During an interview with this witness Mr. Hammersley admitted that many times prior to this encounter he had often felt distinctly "uneasy" driving along this particular stretch of road, and that since he saw the 'ghost' back in 1957 he even now avoids this part of the A12 whenever he can.

Another incident which came to light as a result of the press reports on Mr. Colby's experience, occurred in Hopton on Christmas Eve, 1977. 24 year old Mrs. Rita Rose of Bradwell was driving along the old A12 road thru Hopton with her mother. It was approximately 5.30pm when they approached the road junction near Hopton Post

The parish of HOPTON

— PARISH BOUNDARY
- - - FOOTPATHS
Scale: 3.5" = 1 mile



Office (marked 1 on map). The car was travelling north towards Gt. Yarmouth and just before they reached the junction Mrs. Rose saw the figure of a man in her headlights standing on the edge of the nearside kerb. As she drew level with the man he stepped off the kerb and under the front wheels of the car. Mrs. Rose did an emergency stop (which flung her mother violently against the wind-screen) and at the same time felt the impact as the car appeared to hit the man. As Mrs. Rose got out of the car she was convinced that she had knocked somebody over; but despite searching all around the car neither she nor her mother could find no body on the road nor any sign of the old man. Eventually they gave up and resumed the journey to Bradwell, but even after she arrived home Mrs. Rose could not believe that she hadn't hit the man and became quite hysterical about it.

Mrs. Rose, who is a qualified nurse, described the 'man' that she saw as "...a bent-over old man wearing a trilby hat and a heavy overcoat..." She was particularly struck by his "ashen face and cold look". He was looking directly at the car as it approached but gave no indication that he was about to step off the kerb. Mrs. Rose was most struck by his odd expression, "It was almost as if he knew what was about to happen", she added.

Since the incident she refuses to drive along this particular stretch of road after dark, and it was apparent during my interview with her that she is still somewhat upset by the experience.

Mrs. Rose's mother confirmed in a separate interview more or less exactly what her daughter had said; saying that she herself never saw the 'old man' or felt the impact. In fact she says that she was absolutely unaware that anything was amiss until she was unceremoniously thrown out of her seat when her daughter stood on the brakes!

Another story, unfortunately unsubstantiated by the witness, comes from a colleague of the writer who says that his son was driving home from Gt. Yarmouth late one winter's night a year or so ago and that on the A12, just to the south of Hopton, he swerved violently to miss what he thought was the figure of a man standing in the middle of the road. The car was quite badly damaged, but luckily the driver was not badly injured - he refuses however to talk about the incident.

Yet another encounter with a 'ghostly pedestrian' occurred on this

road in March 1974(4). The incident happened on the southbound carriageway (this incidentally is the original main road before it was made into a dual-carriageway in the 1960's) about 1½ miles south of Hopton. At about 9.15pm one evening the driver of a car claims to have seen a "sneering face" illuminated by the headlights of his car. He braked hard to avoid hitting what he thought was a person; but to his horror the car went through it! This witness, who was extremely upset by the experience, also recalled that on other occasions before the incident, he had felt decidedly 'uneasy' on this stretch of road for no apparent reason.

On this same stretch of road, back in December 1960, Mr. Ernest Tuttle of Lowestoft was killed when the fish lorry which he was driving left the road for no apparent reason and hit a tree. Mr. Tuttle, who drove along the road very frequently, had often told his daughter (who recounted it to the writer) that it was "the worst road he had ever driven on and that there was something odd about it". A month or so before the fatal crash, Mr. Tuttle told his daughter that he had seen "a grey shadow, a mist, going across the road." At the inquest on Mr. Tuttle an open verdict was returned; and the Coroner, in his address to the Jury said, "The evidence (regarding the cause of the accident) did not amount to much and most of it was negative..." adding, "...one naturally tries to find some explanation of something that would otherwise be a complete mystery".(5)

In all fairness, it should be pointed out that the last two incidents occurred a mile or more south of Hopton and that they might not have any connection with the 'old man' seen there - unless of course he frequents the whole 4 mile stretch of the A12 between Lowestoft and Hopton.

Back in 1974, when I first became interested in the stories of a 'ghost' on this stretch of road, I wondered then (and still do) if there might not be a connection between the 'ghost' - if that is what it is - and the apparent preponderance of road traffic accidents here involving single vehicles. I wondered if perhaps drivers were seeing the 'ghost' and thinking it to be a real person were swerving to avoid it and consequently leaving the road. On the face of it there does seem to be a remarkably high number of single car and unexplainable RTAs on

the A12 between Corton and Hopton, but this cannot be stated definitely until a lot more research is conducted into the RTAs here; an operation which, to be really accurate, needs the specialised help of the Police who keep comprehensive records of all the RTAs. To this end I contacted the local police and asked for their help. Unfortunately, but perhaps understandably, I was informed by the Chief Superintendent Traffic that, "...police time is at a premium and therefore the research time required to answer your questions is not available".

So it seems that at present any in-depth research into RTAs on this road is not possible. However, I shall continue to fill my file on the 'old man of Hopton' with press-cuttings of RTAs here, hoping that over a period of time some sort of pattern will emerge.

However, to return to the 'old man' again. On the evidence and testimonies of the witnesses I have spoken to, there does seem to be something odd that occurs on the A12 around Hopton from time to time. Certainly many of the reports do have many similarities, and are centred on the 'apparition' of a man walking slowly across the road. There is not at present any reason to question the sincerity or honesty of those who have seen the figure and so I accept (with certain reservations) the possibility of a 'ghost' that has been seen from time to time by reliable witnesses. Therefore, for the sake of the next part of this article I will assume that A) it is possible for ghosts (in this case the figure of a man) to exist and be seen. B). that a 'ghost' HAS been seen on the A12 between Corton and Hopton. And C). that there must therefore be a reason for that 'ghost' to walk and be seen where he does and that his identity might possibly be discovered.

Before continuing I must point out that the ensuing part of this article is of a speculative nature - and depends very much on whether one accepts the existence of 'ghosts' and the nature of them. I remain unconvinced by any theory and offer the following simply as one explanation of the 'ghost' of the Old Man of Hopton. What follows can be viewed either as the final discovery of the identity of Hopton's ghost; or simply as a case of wishful thinking - I leave the reader to decide - personally I can't, which is the reason I have taken the coward's way out!

IS THIS THE 'OLD' IN' OF HOPTON?

On January 4th this year, shortly after the press coverage of the Hopton 'ghost': I received a telephone call from Mrs Owen Balls of Oulton Broad, Lowestoft. Mrs. Balls said that she had information which might possibly have some connection with the reported ghost, and went on to tell me that at the turn of the century her husband's grandfather, who was the postman for the Hopton parish had dropped down dead there, in the field adjoining the A12.

At the time of the telephone call I was very busy following-up other reports of the ghost which were coming in, and so filed away the information until I had a bit more time to follow it up. Actually, to be perfectly honest, I thought at the time the story had little or no connection with the 'ghost' and consequently I took my time following it up. Now, after much research, I am not so certain that the 'postman' and the 'ghost' are totally unrelated: However, I'll come back to that later on.

On Monday, January 2nd 1899, at 6am 40 year old William Balls, a rural postman living at 44 Lowestoft Road, Gorleston, set out from the sub post office at Gorleston on what was to be his last round - four and a half hours later he was found dead in a field at Hopton....

TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE
NEXT ISSUE (SORRY!)



ON October 10th, 1981, the ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY will be holding an 'open day' at Orwell Park, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk. As well as 10" reflector telescopes for guests to use, there will also be stands on all astronomical topics PLUS a UFO stand managed by BSIG/BUFORA members Dot Street and Brenda Butler: who, as well as bringing UFOs into the public gaze will also be selling T-shirts, posters and badges (not forgetting of course back-issues of LANTERN)- During the day Peter Paget, author of 'UFO UK' and 'The Welsh Triangle', will be at the stand to sign copies of his books.

Notes and Queries



*No.83: GHOSTS. In the village of Lyng and the surrounding villages are supposed to be at least six ghosts. They are as follows:

Phantom Nuns which are supposed to cross the road at Lyng Bastaugh from the old nunnery to the 'Druid Stone' which is in a grove. ACoach and Four which haunt 'Balors Pit' at the top of Caddors Hill. Traditionally the coach was going down the old road when something frightened the horses and they went into the pit drowning all inside. A Little Boy who has been seen in an old shop. He fell downstairs and was killed - on several occasions he has been seen or heard falling down the stairs calling for help. The Richmond Ghost which at one time haunted a house in Richmond Road. The houses have been pulled down and new houses built, but in one of them no one will stop very long - but nobody seems to know why. A Headless horseman rides down 'Belaugh Wall' between Elsing and Bwdswell. At midnight he is said to jump over the wall.

John Copsey, East Dereham.

*No.84: Query. There is an old song, still quite popular in East Suffolk, entitled 'Bungay Roger'. One of our regular readers is anxious to find out exactly who this 'Bungay Roger' is (or was). Any ideas anyone?

*No.85: Fortean. As some men were felling an oak tree at Pulham St Mary, Norfolk, a load that had apparently been embedded in the tree for years fell out. It died in a few moments. Daily Star: 30 May, 1905.

*No.8 : Query: Does any reader know at what date the 'Witches Stones' in Belle Vue Park Lowestoft (oft mentioned in LANTERN) got their name, and why?

SORRY FOR THE LACK OF U.F.O. MATERIAL IN THIS ISSUE OF 'LANTERN'. IT'S DO SOLELY TO A LACK OF SPACE. WE'LL TRY A MAKE UP FOR IT NEXT TIME: EDITOR.

DO THINGS GO IN THREES?

One Sunday morning a week or two ago I came downstairs one morning after dressing. My wife asked me what I would like for breakfast and told me what was in the larder. I made my choice and told her - but she gave me something different: she had forgotten what I had said.

We do not have a set lunch, merely a coffee and sandwiches. My wife asked me what I should like in my sandwiches; but again I got something different to my choice. She had forgotten again. This aroused my interest and I waited to see what would happen next - it had to be something to do with food or eating to qualify.

While we were watching TV that afternoon a burning smell pervaded the house. My wife rushed into the kitchen and found the dog's meat burnt to a cinder. She had forgotten again! Normally she is no more forgetful than other people and this was more or less a 'one-off' case.

This led me to look into my scrapbooks, and I found the following cases:

In April, 1978, three people died as a result of what the paper called 'carbon copy' accidents. In each case one person was killed through their car hitting a tree. They all happened in Essex and they happened on three consecutive days.(1)

Later in 1978, three boys aged 16 died as the result of separate accidents when their car or motor-cycle was being followed by a police car. The accidents happened within a few days of each other. The police said that their vehicles were were all on normal patrols, and there was nothing to differentiate their actions from ordinary routine.(2)

Earlier this year there were three mysterious outbreaks of fire in London underground stations within nine days. They were all stations in central London and situated not far from each other. No cause for the fires was found and why they happened remains a mystery.(3)

Recently a large area of the country from Kent to Wales, was blacked-out thru three failures in electric power lines. The first was on the Bristol line; the second and unrelated one was at Dungeness; and the third, in Hampshire and Surrey, may have been caused by the other two, but this does not alter the fact that there

were three. A spokesman for the CEBG said that their cause was a "total mystery... for one power line to go for no apparent reason would be strange in itself, but for two to go separately is incredible."(4)

As recently as August 7th this year, weathermen admitted that they were puzzled by three downpours in London of more than one inch of rain within four weeks. In this case it may be objected that the time span is rather long, but a spokesman at the London Weather Centre said, "It is totally unprecedented and has taken us all by surprise."(5)

One cannot help wondering if what are called superstitions are in fact the codified results of human experiences through the ages.

References:

- (1) East Anglian Daily Times; 27/3/1978.
- (2) Sunday Telegraph; 4/6/1978.
- (3) Daily Telegraph: 22/6/1981.
- (4) ditto 6/8/1981.
- (5) ditto 7/8/1981.



W.J.C.

From: Jim Kimmis, Editor of Essex Landscape Mysteries.

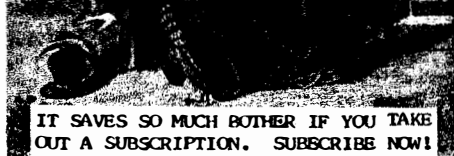
"The double issue of LANTERN was certainly worth waiting for, with Mike Burgess's contribution to the study of East Anglian folklore. 'The Norfolk Giant' is the most thorough piece of work I've seen since Harte's paper on sitting legends.

One quibble only - was Lethbridge as crazy as MWR suggests? What about the "(H)ick" placenames in East Anglia as survivals of the "Iceni" name?

The best of luck with the planned all-litho production this Autumn - I look forward to seeing the new format."

(Well Jim, here it is - what do you think? I have it on good authority that Mike has since come up with info on Hickathrift which has made him modify his views slightly - but not I think on Lethbridge! Perhaps we'll be hearing more on the subject in the not too distant future? - Ed.)

LANTERN is open for exchange with all mags or a similar (or not so similar) ilk. All exchanges get a free mention in this column contact the Editor for details.



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— JUST A THOUGHT —

"What a dreary, monotonous, uneventful age we live in! We have sneered the ghosts and dragons away. We feed our children upon grammar and the multiplication table. Yet there are wonders still if we had but eyes to see them".
Francis Jessop; 'Frivola', 1896.

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